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THE DODGE CITY TIMES.

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NICHOLAS B. KLAINE, Editor.

THE TIMES.

We are glad to know that our endeavors to make a live local newspaper are being appreciated. The prospects are encouraging. We are striving to the best of our ability to make a readable and reliable newspaper, and giving such news and matter suited to the tastes and wants of our readers and patrons. We receive the flattering union to our honor, and with our friends believe that the Dodge City Times is the best local newspaper in Western Kansas.

We dislike politics. We shall leave the field clear to those who delight in the exciting discussions engendered in a political contest. The proper duty of a local newspaper is the promotion of the social and pecuniary interests of the community. It shall be our honest purpose to do whatever we can to build up Dodge City and Ford county. We know that our labors will not be in vain, and that our efforts will be appreciated.

We are constantly adding to our list of friends and patrons, and express our profound thanks to those friends who are giving us substantial comfort and encouraging words. We hope our course will be one of good and profit, and that all may share in the rich store of a happy and prosperous community.

FORD COUNTY PRODUCTS.

Elsewhere we publish extracts from the Lawrence papers giving accounts of the exhibits of Ford county products at the agricultural display at Bismarck Grove, near Lawrence, last week. The products from this county naturally excited some surprise, and therefore our newspaper brethren are extremely profuse in their admiration. The visitors were no less surprised at the wonderful progress made in agriculture in Ford county. It is true, a few years ago this country was a wild, arid waste, but Nature is bountiful; and the industrious hand reaps the lavishness bounteous Nature bestows.

It was a good stroke of business tactics to make this display. The advantages of the country must be shown that others may share in the benefit. We are contented to await the progress of events—the eventful period of our history is approaching. Soon the broad plains will be filled by the sturdy yeoman. Good soil, good climate, an abundance of water, and a country noted for its productiveness, will draw hither thousands of the noble sons of toil from the East. We have but to make a fair showing which needs no exaggeration. When once Ford county's prolific resources are known we have accomplished the prime move in the settlement of the county. No flaming and highly tinted colors are needed to induce the tide of immigration to our borders. It is irresistible. It needs nothing but facts. Facts are stubborn things.

Ford county received the diploma for the best vegetables, and prizes for the best display of cereals. The Board of Judges also gave honorable mention.

THE SHEEP BUSINESS.

Another important feature of the industry of this part of Kansas is the sheep business. The presence of a number of flocks of sheep on the broad plains gives an impetus to the business character of the Plains. For some months past sheep growers have been seeking locations for sheep ranches in the south-

ern part of the State and in the Pan Handle of Texas. Many excellent locations have been found, suitable in respect to range, water and shelter. A number of sheep have been shipped from Dodge City. In conversation with sheep owners we ascertain that this point will be sought as a market or shipping point.

Sheep raising in Kansas has proved a valuable venture. With the settlement and development of Western Kansas this branch of stock raising will be found profitable here. Time is fast developing the important resources of this magnificent country. We are aware that there is some objection to sheep culture on a cattle range, but the prejudices of the past are fast being obliterated. There can be no unlimited privileges of one industry to the exclusion of another. The expansive country affords room for every industry. The bleating lamb and the lowing kine can ex tend sympathies on the extensive range of buffalo herbage.

The prices of sheep and wool are low. It is difficult to ascertain the correct prices, which have no particular standard. But the expenses of raising sheep in this section is insignificant compared to the culture in other sections. Of course the investment is profitable, hence the pursuit of sheep raising.

THE CATTLE RANGE.

It is not likely the settlements will absorb the cattle range for a few years to come. We doubt if the immense cattle drive from Texas will be as great as in years past. There are reasons for this. Facilities for transportation are extending. New markets are opening. The establishment of cattle camps nearer the base of transportation and consumption will enable the supplies to be furnished at all seasons of the year, thus securing a steady, permanent, and more profitable trade.

However, as long as the drive can be maintained through to Kansas, it will find its outlet at Dodge City. This is established from the fact that the route to this point has natural advantages over other routes. We lie in a bend of the river which brings this point nearer to the range and outside of the heavy settlements. We are at the terminal courses of the numerous creeks and streams that find their source south, east and north of us. This point on the river is the only one within the western limits of Kansas that affords an easy ingress to the railroad. The route from the Pan Handle to Dodge City is good at all seasons of the year. There is a good trail, plenty of water and abundance of grass at all times. No other point along the river west within Kansas possesses these natural advantages.

But the main stay of the future is the settlement of so much of the country as can be made profitable and encouraging; the establishment of cattle camps on the extreme south and southwest, which will make a source of general demand for fat and breeding cattle; and so much of the general cattle trade of Texas that will find a market here.

There is an immense section south and southwest of Dodge City, and a portion southeast, that will remain open without agricultural improvement for some years to come. The settlements will reach along the line of the railroad and the counties contiguous to railroad counties on the North. In Ford county the general desire is for settlement north of the river. The advantages open better for settlement on this side of the river. Yet the south side will be sought for the propagation of the Texas and native cattle. Altogether, we view a flattering prospect for the future of this country. It is an agreeable contemplation. No interest will be subserved; but the natural advantages of the country will afford a free and untampered limit of its resources.

THE INDIANS.

Some excitement prevailed upon the announcement that a band of Northern Cheyenne Indians had broken loose from their reservation in the Indian Territory. This information was gathered from a TIMES extra issued Saturday noon, as follows:

"News was received at this station this morning announcing that a majority of the Northern Cheyenne Indians, probably numbering a thousand, had broken away from Fort Reno, or Cheyenne Agency. Their object is to get North to join the hostile Sioux. The Indians are being pursued by two companies of cavalry from Fort Reno and one company from Camp Supply. It is stated that the Indians may pass either east or west of the Post. The commander of Fort Dodge, Col. Lewis, has received orders to watch the south side of the Arkansas river. Troops at Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Hays and other posts have received marching orders. "It is presumed that the Indians are within one hundred miles of Dodge City."

Scouting parties were sent out from the Post, but of course traces of Indians were nowhere to be seen or heard. The news came Monday from headquarters that the Indians had been apprehended. Another dispatch stated that no Indians had broken away. We learned that two camps of Indians were held Saturday night 35 miles west of Dodge City. There were seven families. These were "friendly" Indians on their way to visit their warlike uncle, Col. Sitting Bull, who has not been heard from lately. These roving Indians killed a cow belonging to a settler on the Walnut. Of course they must subsist on their tramp—and cow meat is as wholesome as Texas steer.

A scout of thirty men, under command of Lt. Hinton, from Fort Dodge, was sent out Monday. They are following the trail of the Arkansas, and have probably returned before this. It is stated that straggling Indians are frequently seen crossing the Arkansas in the vicinity of Lakin. It is no doubt true that many of the Northern Cheyennes in straggling bands have found their way to their hostile uncle, as only a couple of weeks ago we learned of the apprehension of 200 of these untutored savages, and their return under military escort to the agency in the Indian country.

But there is not one particle of cause for alarm. Our extra was gotten out for information, and not to excite the fears of any one. The wild Cheyennes chafe under their poor treatment in the Territory. Their home is on the wild desert of the North. They wish to return to their happy hunting grounds and savage life. The only probable scalp they would take on these marches would be the scalp of a Texas steer.

It seems that the Dodge City TIMES extra found pretty general circulation, though for obvious reasons we confined the circulation to Dodge City and did not communicate the news to the leading dailies. The citizens of Spearville and surrounding country, not comprehending the Indian situation, were up in arms and fright. The town was packed with citizens from the country, who fled to the town upon the rumor that the Indians were approaching. We hope every one has found by this time that in the midst of life we are—not afraid of Indians.

It has since transpired that the Agent at Fort Reno was drunk, and drew on his imagination when stating that the Indians had escaped.

PAN HANDLE MARKETS.

The prices of merchandise in the Pan Handle of Texas are enormous. The cost of transportation to Dodge City is great, and goods are shipped from this point a distance of over 200 miles by wagon. The Clarendon (Texas) News gives the following market quotations:

Retail prices at Clarendon are as follows, other supplies are in proportion:

Flour, per cwt.	85 00
Corn Meal, per cwt.	5 00
Corn, shelled, per bush.	2 50
Bacon, per pound.	17
Salt	5
Beans	30
Butter	40
Sugar	14 15
Lumber per M.	60 00
Shingles	10 00
Nails per 100 pounds.	5 00

THE BUFFALO.

The buffalo is becoming extinct. The advancing civilization is driving the noted scraggy animal from the plains. While small herds roam in Western Texas, Kansas, eastern New Mexico and Colorado, the region farther north is the track they follow. Hundreds of men are yet employed upon the vast plains of western Texas who make their business shooting buffalo for their hides. When dry they are ready for market and are hauled to the nearest railroad station to be shipped to the tanneries. Vast trains of wagons loaded with these hides traverse every thoroughfare toward the railroad and return with provisions for the hunters.

Buffalo usually go in herds varying in number from a few stragglers to thousands in the same herd. Occasionally fifty thousand are seen together, yet the most frequent size of the herd is from three hundred to a thousand. They roam over the plains and travel northward in spring and summer and southward in autumn and winter.

For a number of years past buffalo hunting has been a trade which has proven very profitable to those engaged in it, but now it is not profitable as the buffalo are too scarce—that is they go in too small herds to be easily hunted. Hence the hunting as heretofore for the hides alone has about ceased. The cost of preserving the meat at this season of the year is much more than during the cold weather, hence this branch of the business has played no important part in the slaughter of these immense herds. It is estimated that the meat which has gone to waste on the plains during any winter of the past five years would have furnished an abundance of meat for the poor of the entire nation who depend upon charity for food.

A legislative measure to prevent the slaughter of the buffalo was sternly opposed by nearly all the cattle men on the frontier, who claim that the buffalo retard civilization by destroying the pasturage of cattle ranches for a year or two after they have made a pasturage of it.

It is uncertain what effect the bill will have, if passed, yet it is quite certain that the buffalo hunting is at its close, unless the buffalo are more plentiful than they have been on the plains of the Pan Handle the present season.

At present there are buffalo in the Pan Handle sufficient for a good supply of meat for all who will be here for two or three years. It is quite probable that should the killing of buffalo continue it will be at the farthest but a year or two when they will be virtually killed off and out of the way of the cattle on the range.

THE PAN HANDLE.

Dodge City is sharing in the benefits to be derived by the settlement of the Pan Handle of Texas. Settlers for that section of country go by way of Dodge City, this point being the nearest railroad connection. The route lies to Camp Supply, thence to Fort Elliott, being about 60 miles nearer to the railroad than by other routes. From the Clarendon News we glean the following, which shows the route of immigration:

"Several parties will be at Dodge City, enroute for Clarendon, about October 1st. Our own teams will be there at that time unless hindered. In travel company is agreeable. Let us many aim at that date as may please, or choose to do so.

"Will our friends East and North, whose gardens are full of seeds, please send us by mail (or by freight to Dodge City) such garden and timber seeds, nuts, roots, &c., as may come to hand. We will give them a good chance, report receipts in the News and results also; and when you come to live among us, as you most certainly will, you shall share the fruits. Scatter seeds of kindness."